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10/590,188	01/29/2007	Kouroush Nasheri	SAU1.PAU.01.US	3520
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Myers Andras Sherman LLP 19900 MacArthur Blvd. Suite 1150 Irvine, CA 92612			EXAMINER	
			TUROCY, DAVID P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1792	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/590,188	Applicant(s) NASHERI ET AL.
	Examiner DAVID TUROCY	Art Unit 1792

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-30 and 33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-5,31 and 32 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/25/07</u>	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 6-30 and 33 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only and cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim-. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

2. Claims 1-5, 31-32 are objected to because of the following informalities: claims include ("a super hot temperature") within the claim. This is inappropriate and should more reasonably read "preheating a working solution to a temperature above the atmospheric boiling point of the working solution to form a working solution at a super hot temperature" or some acceptable alternative. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being EP 0680810 A1, hereafter EP 810 as evidenced by the applicants specification.

EP 810 discloses a process for impregnating wood or wood based material comprising the steps

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of: preheating a working solution to a temperature of 80-150 °C contacting a wood or wood based material with the working solution at a and at an elevated pressure such that the working solution is in the liquid phase, to cause impregnation of the liquid base solution into the wood or wood based material; and c. separating the wood or wood based material and any remaining working solution, waste material and/or by-products (see entire reference, particularly page 3, figure).

The temperature of the solution of EP 810 is above the atmospheric boiling point ("a super hot temperature") of the working solution, see applicants specification at page 2 which discloses boiling point of acetic anhydride is 139°C.

Claim 2-3: EP 810 discloses preheating and pre-pressure (see figure).

Claims 31-32: EP 810 discloses the limitation of these claims that are not specifically addressed above (see figure).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 810 in view of US Patent 5679407 hereinafter US 407 or US Patent 4466998 hereinafter US 998.

EP 810 discloses all that is taught above, including applying a pre-pressure to the chamber; however, the reference fails to disclose using a gas as claimed. However, US 407 discloses applying a pre-pressure to a wood prior to impregnation using N₂ gas and US 998 discloses providing pre-pressure using air. Therefore it would have been obvious to have modified EP 810 to have used N₂ or air gas to provide the pre-pressure because such is taught as known and suitable techniques in wood impregnation art to provide preliminary pressure prior to impregnation.

Claim 5: this claim is rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patent 6376582 discloses acetylating reaction temperature of 140-210°C.
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID TUROCY whose telephone number is (571)272-2940. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-6:00, No 2nd Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David Turocy/
Examiner, Art Unit 1792